

# MD sufferer and dad launch clothing line for the disabled

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available include jeans, t-shirts, sweat-shirts, underwear, nightgowns that are adapted for a person's disability. They also offer socks, napkin bibs and lap blankets.

"Once we decided to go forward I started contacting them (the clothing manufacturers) myself. I wanted to be totally up-front," said Ditz.

Ditz said before ReSolve, when he and his wife Jennine purchased clothing for their son, they found the available adaptive clothing was geared to seniors—and didn't include the type of clothes a teen would wear.

"It's bad enough they stand out in a wheelchair," said Ditz. He added, wearing ill-fitting clothes designed for seniors was just another way DuPont or others like him were different from their friends.

With the type of clothing offered by ReSolve, Ditz said, "they fit in with their peers, they look normal."

Before launching the business, when they bought regular clothes they had them altered at a tailoring shop and the overall cost for the item "was a ridiculous amount of money," said DuPont.

But through ReSolve, Ditz said, they are able to offer customers name brand clothing modified specifically for them "for the same price they would pay for them in the store."

The name for the company actually came from something DuPont has often said over the past 10 years as his disease has progressed: "I have resolve."

They decided to focus on the "solve" in resolve when naming the business.

Customers can place orders online at [www.resolveapparel.com](http://www.resolveapparel.com) or by calling 647-224-3676. They describe what modifications they need and the items are sent to a local seamstress who makes the necessary alterations.

Some common alterations requested include openings up the back of a sweat-shirt or t-shirt for example, where a strip of Velcro is added. The shirt can then



John Ditz shows the adaptive clothing his son Jason DuPont wears. Photo by Ted Brown

easily be put on the person like a hospital gown, then secured with the Velcro. Other people opt to have Velcro put into the sides of the shirt.

Ditz said DuPont is their "guinea pig."

"He tells us if something is comfortable," he said.

Nightgowns can open at the front, again held by a Velcro strip, and similar modifications can be made to pants and underwear.

"Some people want to be as independent as possible. It's not only easier for the person wearing the clothes, but for the caregivers as well," said Ditz.

Ditz and DuPont have been attempting to get the word out about ReSolve, and have been visiting rehab hospitals to show their products.

"People don't know there's an option out there," said Ditz.

The items can be mailed to customers or delivered, said Ditz.

ReSolve clothing is also available at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital, St. Michael's Hospital, Medical Mart, 550 Matheson Blvd. W. Unit 101 in Mississauga and other locations detailed at [www.resolveapparel.com](http://www.resolveapparel.com)

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